

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00343 071500Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-06
DHA-02 /064 W
-----071527Z 104243 /65

R 071224Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 469
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: CALCUTTA PRESS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FOREIGN MISSIONARIES
IN THE NORTHEAST

1. CONGEN CALCUTTA REPORTS THAT THE JANUARY 1 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA" CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ALLEGING SINISTER ACTIVITIES BY "FOREIGN MISSIONARIES" IN THE TERAJ AREA OF NORTHEAST INDIA. CITING AS HIS SOURCE A REPORT PREPARED BY THE "INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRAL GOVT," THE AUTHOR CHARGED INTER ALIA THAT MOST OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN THE AREA WERE ENGAGED IN "ANTI-INDIAN ACTIVITIES" BEHIND THE FACADE OF THEIR HUMANITARIAN WORK, THAT THE MISSIONARY CENTERS WERE CONTROLLED BY PRIESTS FROM BELGIUM, CANADA AND THE U.S; THAT SOME OF THE CENTERS HAD ORGANIZED FAMILY PLANNING SEMINARS AMONG THE TRIBALS OF THE HILLS, AND THAT A "CALCUTTA NUN" HAD ADDRESSED THESE SEMINARS URGING PEOPLE TO OPPOSE THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM AS "ANTI-CHRISTIAN".

2. THE JANUARY 3 EDITION OF "JUGANTAR, A BENGALI- LANGUAGE AFFILIATE OF THE "PATRIKA", CARRIED A LEAD EDITORIAL ALONG THE
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SAME LINES.

3. THE JANUARY 6 "PATRIKA" CARRIES A LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM CATHOLIC CARDINAL PICACHY REPLYING TO THE ACCUSATIONS IN THE JANUARY 1 "PATRIKA" ARTICLE. SAYING THAT THE ARTICLE DEEPLY OFFENDED THE SENSIBILITIES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, THE CARDINAL WROTE THAT THE "PATRIKA" ARTICLE WAS ALMOST IDENTI

CAL TO A PIECEKARRIED IN A SEPTEMBER 1976 ISSUE OF A "WELL-KNOWN BOMBAY WEEKLY". (I.E. "BLITZ"). IN THAT SAME MONTH, WROTE PICACHY, THE CATHOLIC ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITIES DREW THE ATTENTION OF WEST BENGAL AUTHORITIES TO THESE ALLEGATIONS AND WERE ASSURED THAT THE GOVT "KNEW AND APPRECIATED THE WORK OF THE FATHERS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS" WORKING IN THE AREA UNDER QUESTION. PICACHY ADDED THAT WHILE ON A TOUR OF THE AREA THE ARCHBISHOP OF CALCUTTA AND TWO LOCAL BISHOPS HAD BEEN ASSURED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS OF THE "INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION" WHICH MISSIONARIES HAD MADE TO THE PROGRESS OF THE AREA. IN A RE-JOINDER, THE (UNNAMED) AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE REBUTTED THE CARDINAL'S STATEMENTS, CLAIMING THAT THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION WAS THE GOVT REPORT ITSELF AND DENYING ANY CONNECTION WITH THE "BOMBAY WEEKLY".

4. COMMENT: NO SUCH ALLEGATIONS HAVE APPEARED IN THE DELHI PRESS NOR, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IN ANY OTHER NEWSPAPERS OUTSIDE OF CALCUTTA. WE HAVE NOT RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH GOI AUTHORITIES
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FAMILY PLANNING, ALLEGATIONS, MISSIONARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770007-0215
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770171/aaaackkn.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: CALCUTTA PRESS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN THE NORTHEAST
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